

~~SECRET~~  
Security Information

15 October 1953

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. JACOBS

SUBJECT: Military Assistance Programs for El Salvador,  
Honduras and Nicaragua

1. There are no military assistance programs in these three countries.

2. Background

In the early spring of this year, the Department of State requested the Department of Defense to consider the granting of military assistance to El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua with the objective of "blocking off" the Communist-dominated country of Guatemala.

The law provides that before military assistance can be furnished, the Joint Chiefs of Staff must determine a mission for the particular country, and state that such aid is essential in the defense of the Western Hemisphere.

JCS replied that they could not recommend a mission for El Salvador and Honduras, but would attempt to establish a logical mission for Nicaragua.

3. State has again raised the question and JCS must now give an answer with respect to Nicaragua.

4. Assumption on my part

The visitor who will call upon DD/P today may be looking for a position from CIA which would add weight in support of a decision to furnish military aid to Nicaragua and possibly El Salvador and Honduras. The decision in this case is made by the President.

Note: I suggest that you give this information to DD/P before his meeting even though you did not ask me to furnish a brief.

[ ]

J. D. BALMER

Chief, Planning and Program  
Coordination Staff

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

*Briefing  
Wideman etc -  
not good -  
Confusing -  
JCS & JCS  
JCS -  
Frankel was  
out of the  
standing  
from -  
Hoyos - etc*